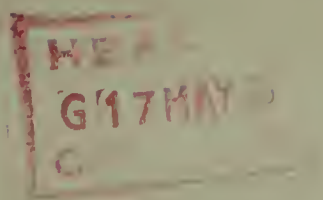


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SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1955.



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector -

J. E. FANNON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the District has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Fannon, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss.P.Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Sartin, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. Fannon

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 5.

A. Area - 41,481 acres.

Rateable value - 1st April 1955 - £28,240; 1st April 1956 - £39,582
(approx)

Production of a penny rate - 1955/56 - £111.(estimate)
1956/57 - £155.(estimate)

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 5,720.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>		Comparative figures	
				(a)Sherborne R.D.C.	(b)England & Wales. (Provl.)
Total	39	38	}Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 13.3		
Legitimate	38	37			
Illegitimate	1	1		14.0	15.0

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	2	-	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 25.3	25.3	23.1
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DEATHS.

Total	29	37	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 11.5	10.9	11.7
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Deaths in
infants under
one year

2	-	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 26.0	26.0	24.5
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			<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Deaths from	Maternal Causes	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	" Tuberculosis	-	Nil	1	Nil
"	" Cancer of the Lungs	-	1	2	Nil
"	" Coronary Disease (Angina)	-	9	3	6
"	" Influenza	-	2	Nil	3
"	" Pneumonia	-	2	3	1
"	" Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	2	1
"	" All other accidents	-	2	1	Nil
"	" Suicide	-	Nil	Nil	1

B. Nature of the District.

The district is rural in character, its main industry being agriculture. A large number of outworkers carry on glove making in their homes for factories situated outside the district.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council. It has not been possible to develop fully the County Council's Domestic Home Help Service. Otherwise, the services provided have been adequate and no further comment with regard to them is considered necessary.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

D. Environmental Health Services.

1. SANITARY STAFF.

J.E.Fannon, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector. Part time on duties of Waterworks Manager until 30.4.55.
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Clerical Staff - one clerk (part time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

During the year a Waterworks Manager was appointed to take charge of the Council's water undertakings and the Sanitary Inspector ceased to carry out these duties.

Rainfall for the year 1955 (as recorded by Mr.C.E.Bean of Barton Gardens, Sherborne) = 28.67 inches.

(a) Quantity. No serious shortages of supply were experienced during the year.

(b) Quality. The bacteriological quality of some of the supplies still prove unsatisfactory, in particular the Southern Parishes Supply. Chlorination of all the Council's supplies is carried out and regular samples submitted for bacteriological examination and for free chlorine estimation. The details are given below.

<u>Council Supplies (Public).</u>	<u>Bacteriological.</u>	<u>Chemical.</u>	<u>Chlorine Estimation.</u>
Bradford Abbas	4	-	3
Holwell & Bishops Caundle	4	3	4
Leigh	11	1	4
Oborne	13	1	3
Southern Parishes	12	1	11
Trent & Sandford Orcas	5	2	5
Yeovil Borough	2	-	2
Northern Parishes	24	2	21
Total	- 75	10	53
	- 2 -		

<u>Private Supplies.</u>	<u>Bacteriological.</u>	<u>Chemical.</u>	<u>Chlorine Estimation.</u>
Batcombe	3	-	-
Bradford Abbas	4	-	-
Castleton	6	-	-
Caundle Marsh	1	-	-
Leweston	1	-	-
Lillington	6	-	-
Nether Compton	2	-	-
Poyntington	8	-	-
Stockwood	1	-	-
Thornford	2	-	-
<hr/>			
Total	- 34	-	-
Grand Total	- 109	10	53

(c) New Works and New Connections. During the early part of the year work on new mains and reservoirs in connection with the comprehensive water scheme based on the lake borehole, Thornford, proceeded. In August, pumping commenced from the new borehole.

Pumping from the Council's borehole at Bradford Abbas was discontinued and all properties on this supply, in addition to those at Silverlake and Castleton, were then supplied from the Compton reservoir mains.

The bulk supply purchased from Yeovil Corporation for Beerhackett was discontinued, also the supply from Sturminster Rural District Council at Holwell and Bishops Caundle. These parishes are now supplied from the comprehensive scheme.

In September the work of changing over the Southern Parishes Supply to Honeycombe was carried out in stages and the supply from the Sherborne Urban District Council via Haydon was discontinued. It was found necessary, for the time being, to leave approximately twelve properties on the Hilfield Supply. As the comprehensive scheme develops these properties can be supplied from Honeycombe and it is essential that the Hilfield Supply should be abandoned at the earliest opportunity.

By the end of the year the majority of the works required in Thornford were complete, the Sherborne Castles Estates were informed and they decided to cease pumping from Bedmill source on the 30th January 1956.

New Connections. The following new connections to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

(i) Domestic use	86
(ii) Agriculture	28
(iii) Other	4

These figures do not include two farms and farm houses at Yetminster in the Yeovil Corporation area of the Supply.

(d) Details of domestic supply.

Parish.	Houses with public supply	Houses with Standpipes.	Houses with supply direct to house.	Popu- lation supplied (estimated).
Batcombe	11	2	9	31
Beerhackett	17	-	17	55
Bradford Abbas	74	-	74	250
Castleton	17	10	7	50
Caundle Bishop	108	20	88	331
Caundle Marsh	23	5	18	97
Caundle Purse	47	5	42	174
Chetnole	66	8	58	244
Clifton Maybank	8	-	8	25
Folke	106	23	83	335
Goathill	10	4	6	49
Haydon	19	3	16	70
Hermitage	14	5	9	36
Hilfield	11	4	7	43
Holnest	39	0	37	111
Holwell	99	5	94	356
Leigh	118	15	103	412
Leweston	1	-	1	20
Lillington	13	1	12	44
Longburton	85	7	78	256
Melbury Bubb	5	-	5	17
North Wootton	9	1	8	32
Oborne	39	-	39	108
Ryme Intrinseca	39	7	32	139
Sandford Orcas	56	3	52	196
Stockwood	6	-	6	24
Thornford	54	2	52	189
Trent	29	1	28	105
Yetminster	175	3	172	629
	1,298	134	1,161	4,428

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The absence of adequate sewerage and sewage disposal facilities remains the main stumbling block to improvement of housing conditions in most of the parishes in the district. This lack will become more apparent as main water is made available to increasing numbers of properties in the expansion of the water undertaking.

Twenty-nine septic tank installations have been put in by private owners during the year at considerable expense which in many cases could have been saved had the Council been able to proceed with its sewerage schemes.

A report on the relative urgency and suggested priorities for the various village schemes was made during the year and it is to be hoped that some progress may be permitted at an early date.

Chetnole. A length of ditch alongside the main road has been piped and a major nuisance in this village, to some extent abated thereby.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. The monthly collection of house refuse has been maintained throughout the year. Requests for a more frequent collection have been made from time to time by various bodies

(Womens Institutes and Parish Councils), but were refused on economic grounds.

The quantity of refuse continues to increase, although the collectors have been instructed to pick up only domestic refuse, and the tip at Thornford is rapidly filling. Efforts to acquire a site for a new tip have so far been unsuccessful and authority was given to increase the scavenging staff from two to three men to permit the employment of one man at the tip, full time, so that more thoroughly controlled tipping may be carried out with a consequent extension of the useful life of the existing site.

(b) Salvage. The sale of salvaged materials during the year brought in £63. 17s. 0d. compared with £81. 6s. 9d last year. This figure is disappointing in view of the increased value of scrap, but is due in some measure to the activities of door-to-door collectors who are paying good prices to householders for materials which had previously been put out with the ordinary refuse.

The purchase of a new trailer was authorised during the year and when this is delivered it will be possible to segregate a greater quantity of waste paper, the market for which is improving.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. The contract for this work at the Council Housing Sites was continued and is operating very satisfactorily

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

The cleansing of those 'black' ditches for which the Council has, over the years, assumed responsibility was carried out as necessary and, despite the dry season, the nuisances from this source were largely kept in check. The ditch at Blacksmiths Lane, Thornford, was a notable exception. These ditches still remain as the most pressing sanitary problem in the district and will not be cured until proper sewerage systems are provided.

Relations with the Rivers Boards have been satisfactory, the effluent from the Council's sewage disposal works being maintained at an acceptable standard.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

Forty inspections were carried out under the Shops Acts and no defects found.

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	17
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	32
	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 49
	<hr/>	
	<u>No. of cases in which defects were -</u>	
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
		<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>
Sanitary Conveniences -		
Unsuitable or defective	2	2
No. of outworkers = 84.		-

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district which is used by the public on occasion by special permission. The water is from springs and is chlorinated when in use.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No camping sites were licensed, but eight licenses were granted permitting individual caravans to be stationed on specific sites.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Three properties were treated for flea infestation and three infestations of cluster fly were dealt with.

In one stubborn case of fleas which did not respond to D.D.T. treatment the use of flaked naphtha proved very successful.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

The work of the Committee continued to function smoothly and the Divisional Rodent Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has reported that both in cost and percentage of inspections made, the work of the group compares very favourably with the figures for similar organisations elsewhere in the Division.

Complaints have been dealt with promptly by the Rodent Officer and his staff and the Council's sewers and refuse tip are baited regularly.

13. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

15. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

Twenty-four inspections were made of schools in respect of sanitation and meals facilities.

The cooking of meals at Bradford Abbas School was discontinued

and container meals are now provided there as at the other schools in the district.

The sanitary accommodation at Yetminster School was improved during the year and plans are in course of preparation for the provision of water-borne sanitation at Osborne School.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was taken under these Acts during the year.

17. HOUSING.

Total No. of houses in the district 1,848

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year 227

No. of inspections made 283

No. of informal notices served 6

No. of informal notices complied with 5

No. of statutory notices served Nil

No. of statutory notices complied with 5

No. of houses reported under Section 11
of the Housing Act 1936 Nil

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect
of such houses -

(a) Demolition Orders made Nil

(b) Undertakings accepted for -

(i) Closure Nil

(ii) Reconditioning Nil

(iii) Other action Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Slum Clearance.

In accordance with Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, the required return was made to the Ministry of the Council's proposals with regard to slum clearance. This return showed, in the opinion of the Council, the estimated number of unfit houses (requiring to be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 or by clearance) was 142 and that the Council proposed to deal with these houses within the next five years. It is proposed to deal with the majority of these houses by individual action under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936.

Apart from inspection prior to future representation, no action was taken during the year to implement these proposals.

Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year.

Houses Known to be Let in Lodgings.

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

No applications were received during the year for certificates of disrepair under the above-mentioned Act.

The absence of such applications suggest that property owners

are not taking advantage of the provisions of the Act to enable them to increase rents.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954).

Thirty-two applications were received during the year for grants under the above-mentioned Act and the same number granted.

Requisitioned Premises etc.

One house was held under requisition at the end of the year. Four houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made were occupied under licence at the end of the year.

Provision of New Houses and Rehousing.

Eight new houses were provided in the district during the year by private enterprise, but no new dwellings were completed by the Local Authority. The number of Council houses in the district remains at 350. Twenty-nine families were housed (on change of accommodation) by the Council during the year.

127 applicants are at present awaiting accommodation in the Sherborne Rural District and, in addition, housing accommodation will be required to rehouse (within the next five years) a proportion of the occupants in unfit properties which will have to be demolished. The Council will, therefore, have to resume the provision of further Council houses if the needs of these applicants are to be met.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration
by the District Council under regulation 14
of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk)
Regulations 1949 _____ 2

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under
regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)
(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 _____ 5

No. of 'dairies' in the District subject to
registration under regulation 8 of the Milk &
Dairies Regulations 1949 _____ 7

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration under
regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 _____ 7

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination
during the year:-

	<u>Passed.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculin Tested	3	1	4
Accredited	-	-	-
Pasteurised	34	1	35
Non-designated	3	-	3

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section
13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 49
No. being - restaurant kitchens 2
hotel kitchens 1
food factories 2
No. of such premises inspected 42
No. inspected being - restaurant kitchens 6
hotel kitchens 2
food factories 4
No. of premises in the district subject to registration
under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 15
No. of such premises registered in respect of -
(a) Ice-cream 14
(b) Sausages and prepared meats 1
No. of premises inspected during the year 15
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for
Methylene Blue Test Nil
No. of inspections of food stalls Nil

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. There are two private licensed slaughterhouses
in the district.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lams.</u>
Number killed	276	151	6	213
Number inspected	276	151	6	213
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	1	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	29	11	-	11
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	10.86	7.28	-	5.16
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	-	2	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	6	13	-	-
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuberculosis	2.17	9.93	-	-

Other Foodstuffs.

Quantities condemned - 4 lbs. corned beef.

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,427
Total No. of informal notices served	11
Total No. of informal notices complied with	10
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.
Measles	31
Whooping Cough	13
Pneumonia	6
Scarlet Fever	4
Erysipelas	1

Tuberculosis -

New Cases Notified.		Deaths.	
Respiratory.	Non.Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non.Respiratory.
2	-	-	-

Food Poisoning -

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

